

1917

Daily reports

- Nov 19 Visited Prisoners at 8 ob a.m. find all correct and no complaints. Males 21 Females 2
W.H.M.
- Nov 20 Visited Prisoners at 8 ob a.m. find all correct and no complaints. Males 21 Females 2
W.H.M.
- Nov 21 Visited Prisoners at 8 ob a.m. find all correct and no complaints. Males 21 Females 2
W.H.M.
- Nov 22 Visited Prisoners at 8 ob a.m. find all correct and no complaints. Males 21 Females 1
W.H.M.
- Nov 23 Visited Prisoners at 8 ob a.m. find all correct and no complaints. Males 21 Females 1
W.H.M.
- Nov 24 Visited Prisoners at 8 ob a.m. find all correct and no complaints. Males 20 Females 1
W.H.M.
- Nov 25 Visited Prisoners at 8 ob a.m. find all correct except Thomas Stattery. Had break down of some description. Males 20 Females 1
W.H.M.
- Nov 26 Visited Prisoners at 8 ob a.m. find all correct and no complaints. Males 20 Females 1
W.H.M.
- Nov 27 Visited Prisoners at 8 ob a.m. find all correct and no complaints. Males 19 Females 1
W.H.M.
- Nov 28 Visited Prisoners at 8 ob a.m. find all correct and no complaints. Males 19 Females 1
W.H.M.

of the Gaoler

1917

- Nov 29 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find all correct and no complaints Males 19 Females 1
W. H. Bell
- Nov 30 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find all correct and no complaints Males 19 Females 1
W. H. Bell
- Dec 1 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find all correct and no complaints Males 19 Females 1
W. H. Bell
- Dec 2 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find all correct and no complaints Males 17 Females 1
W. H. Bell
- Dec 3 Visited Prisoners at 8.30 o'clock find all correct and no complaints Males 17 Females 1
W. H. Bell
- Dec 4 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find all correct and no complaints Males 18 Females 1
W. H. Bell
- Dec 5 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find all correct and no complaints Males 17 Females 1
W. H. Bell
- Dec 6 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find all correct at 9.5 o'clock a tremendous explosion occurred a ship loaded with explosive cargo collided with another ship of the Dockyard. the whole cargo exploded with terrible force killing about two thousand persons and rendering thousands more less. not one house north of north street was left standing. every public building filled with dead and dying. every pane of glass in the city smashed doors broken in or smashed to kindling wood. heavily armed soldiers and sailors patrol the streets. teams with dead
over

Daily reports of

and dying were to be seen every where. persons picked up in the streets dead from fallen glass tidal wave swept the water front carrying every thing with it water covering water street. people were driven by soldiers to the south end of city and to the Cuntry districts, fearing another explosion from the magazine in the dockyard. Prisoners in the Gaol were knocked down by fallen window frames. those who were not knocked down became frantic and frantic-stricken, tearing at the iron gates like mad-men. I was up stairs in my room shaving was knocked to the floor, regained my feet and grabbed for my revolver, rushed down stairs ordered wife and children in the yard after a desperate struggle with the Prisoners got control of the situation. tried to phone river broke. went to the street to get some information. I meet soldiers driving people to south end of city said another explosion was expected. was going to release prisoners in yard. after taking second thought, decided not to. came to the conclusion that nothing in the city could not be any worse. got canvas and covered all the broken shashes. Males 17 Females 1

W.H.H.

Dec 7 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock am find all correct except Thomas Downey suffering from cut in the head. being knocked unconscious by falling window sash. tried to get Gaol Physician was very busy did not come. Gaol perfectly warm and comfortable Males 17 Females 1 reports heavy fall of snow making conditions much worse.

W.H.H.

the Gaoler

- Dec 8 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find ^{all} correct and as comfortable as ever. Thomas Downey hit by fallen window frame recovering rapidly. had ten Prisoners working boarding up Court house windows and clearing out the broken doors, no men can be got any where to do the work. no teams were to be had. what ever we wanted we had to go and get. bread from the bakers tar-paper boards nails. every thing brought by man-power. and in my opinion it was a good thing they were available. Males 17 Females 1
- Dec 9 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find all correct and no complaints. had eight Prisoners working all day boarding up windows in the Court house. Males 19 Females 1
- Dec 10 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find all correct and no complaints. all warm and comfortable. Males 19 Females 2
- Dec 11 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find all correct and no complaints. had ten Prisoners working at the Court House. boarding up windows. Males 19 Females 2
- Dec 12 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find all correct and no complaints. Males 17 Females 3
- Dec 13 Visited Prisoners at 8 o'clock find all correct and no complaints. Males 19 Females 2

Transcription of Daily Reports of the County Jailor during and after the Halifax Explosion (excerpted from 312-67-8-1917)

Dec. 6

Visited prisoners at 8:06am find all correct. At 9:5 o'clock am a tremendous Explosion occurred a ship loaded with explosive cargo collided with another Ship at the Dockyard. the whole cargo exploded with terrible force killing about two thousand persons and rendering thousands home-less. not one house north of North Street was left standing. every public building filled with dead and dying. every pane of glass in the City smashed. doors broken in or smashed to kindling wood. heavily armed soldiers and sailors patrole the streets, teams with dead and dying were to be seen every where. persons picked up in the streets dead from fallen glass. tidal wave swept the water front carrying everything with it water covering Water street. people were driven by soldiers to the south end of the City and to the Country districts fearing another explosion from the magazines in the dockyard. Prisoners in the Gaol were knocked down by fallen window frames. those who were not knocked down became frantic and panic-stricken, tearing at the Iron gates like mad-men. I was upstairs in my room shaving was knocked to the floor, regained my feet and grabbed for my revolver, rushed down stairs ordered wife and children in the yard after a desperate struggle with the prisoners got control of the situation, tried to phone wires broke. went to the street to get some Information. Meet soldiers driving people to south end of City said another Explosion was expected. was going to release prisoners in yard, after taking second thought, decided not to, came to the conclusion that nothing in the city could not be any worse. got canvas and covered all the broken s(t)ashes. Males 17. Females 1. *Initialed*

Dec. 7.

Visited prisoners at 8 o'clock am find all correct except Thomas Downey suffering from cut in the head, being knocked unconscious by falling window sash. tried to get Gaol Physician was very busy did not come. Gaol perfectly warm and comfortable. Males 17. Females 1. Reports heavy fall of snow making conditions much worse. *Initialed*

Dec. 8.

Visited prisoners at 8 o'clock am find all correct and as comfortable as ever. Thomas Downey hit by fallen window frame recovering rapidly had ten prisoners working boarding up Court house windows and clearing out the broken doors. No men can be got any where to do the work. No teams were to be had. whatever we wanted we had to go and get bread from the bakers tar-paper boards nails. everything. brought by man-power and in my opinion it was a good thing they were available. Males 17. Females 1. *Initialed*

Dec. 9

Visited prisoners at 8 o'clock am find all correct and no complaints. Had eight prisoners working all day boarding up windows in the Court house. Males 19. Females 1. *Initialed*